

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 20 (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A culture medium, which is capable of supporting growth of viable microorganisms comprising:

a nutrient broth in a flowable, liquid state;

a dye which changes color with a change in pH from a first pH range to a second pH range; and

a dual buffer system comprising a first buffer having a first pK_a and a second buffer having a second pK_a , wherein said first pK_a and said second pK_a are within said first pH range and said second pH range respectively, wherein the concentration of said first buffer is about 1/10 to 1/100 the concentration of said second buffer.

22. (ORIGINAL) The culture medium of Claim 21, wherein said dye comprises Bromcresol Purple.

23. (ORIGINAL) The culture medium of Claim 21, wherein said first buffer comprises at least one phosphate salt.

24. (ORIGINAL) The culture medium of Claim 21, wherein said second buffer comprises at least one acetate salt.

25. (ORIGINAL) The culture medium of Claim 24, wherein said at least one acetate salt is sodium acetate.

26. (ORIGINAL) The culture medium of Claim 21, wherein said dual buffer system comprises a lower concentration of buffer having a pK_a in said first pH range than buffer having a pK_a in said second pH range.

27. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A culture medium, which is capable of supporting growth of viable microorganisms comprising:

a nutrient broth;

a dye which changes color with a change in pH from a first pH range to a second pH range; and

a dual buffer system comprising a first buffer having a first pK_a and a second buffer having a second pK_a , wherein said first pK_a and said second pK_a are within said first pH range and said second pH range respectively;

wherein said first pH range is between 6.8 and 7.2.